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Assistant Director for Operations

1 November 1950

Chief, FBID

Progress Report for October 1950

1. With the fall of Pyongyang coverage of North Korean radios was limited to partial reception of Simuiju. The Chief, Tokyo Bureau was sent to Korea to determine the advisability of establishing a temporary operation from the standpoint of attaining valuable coverage. Exploration of this subject continues. Adequate Department of State and Army support except as regards local transportation is assured. It remains to be determined if a Korean station will contribute valuable material for a long enough period to justify its establishment.

2. Reception of Indochinese radios for monitoring purposes at existing FBID stations is inadequate. Presently the Department of State is asking the Legation in Saigon to determine the extent of monitoring coverage by the French and the U.S. Legation, and the possibility of receiving in Washington an integrated file of Ho Chi Minh controlled, French controlled and Vietnam Government controlled broadcast material. If such coverage and filing is not feasible, even with increased French cooperation, the Legation has been asked if it would welcome an FBID mission to coordinate monitoring activity.

3. In connection with 2 above consideration was given to establishing an operation at Clark Field, Luzon, P.I. This would offer better coverage of Indochina than can be maintained at Okinawa but probably much poorer than Saigon.

4. Radioteletype facilities were reactivated for sending selected portions of the Okinawa and Tokyo Bureaus' product to the Department of State in Korea.

5. The FBID Mediterranean Bureau began airnailing on a regular basis the texts of monitored Kurdish language broadcasts to Department of State offices in Teheran and Baghdad.

6. Informal comments on the new FBID publication "Trends and Highlights of Moscow Broadcasts" have been favorable.

7. The reduction of the "Survey of USSR Broadcasts" both in size and frequency of publication has elicited no objections from recipients.

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8. Publication of "The Survey of Far East Broadcasts" was begun on 12 October. This publication and the USSR Survey are issued on alternate weeks.

9. In addition to a Special Report entitled "A Review of Soviet Broadcasts on the War in Korea", dated 10 October three reports were prepared for the President as follows:

"Foreign Radio Reaction to the President's Radio Address of 17 October," dated 19 October 1950.

"Foreign Radio Comment on the President's 17 October Address and the Wake Island Conference" dated 23 October 1950.

"Foreign Radio Reaction to the President's Address to the United Nations," dated 26 October 1950.

10. A compilation entitled "Preliminary Glossary of Soviet Terminology" was reproduced and distributed internally and to other interested offices. This glossary is designed primarily to assist new FBID Russian language monitors in translating broadcast material but it is expected to be of assistance to other specialists working with the Russian language.

11. OSO, having a requirement for communications facilities from London to Washington which would not be subject to outages caused by atmospheric conditions, entered into an agreement with the Department of State to lease a cable from Western Union for 12 hours every day. The 12 hours are shared equally by the Department of State and OSO. At present OSO does not require more than the protection afforded by the cable and a very limited volume of traffic. Therefore the unused OSO share has been made available to FBID. Unfortunately the 12 hours presently set aside are from 1300 to 0100 EST. These hours do not coincide with FBID deadlines and peak periods but it is expected that an adjustment will be made in a few weeks which will more adequately meet FBID requirements.

L. K. WHITE

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